Recommendations of the committee to assess actual production capacity of HFC

3079. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the committee set up by Government to assess the actual production capacity of Durgapur and other units of HFC have submitted their recommendations in 1992;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof and the reasons for its non-implementation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A Committee set up by HFC submitted its report in March, 1993, on the achievable capacity of the various units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited. The Committee, after analysing the condition of the plants and their past performance, indicated the following achievable capacities for ammonia and urea.

Name of the unit	Percentage of capacity utilisation	
	Ammonia	Urea
Durgapur	56.6%	52.42%
Barauni	53.9%	55.76%
Namrup-I	59.18%	—
Namrup-II	55.9%	57.60%

HFC has been declared as a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The BIFR has appointed the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) as the Operating Agency and directed it on 15.7.1994 to independently evaluate all the alternatives available for rehabilitation of the units of HFC from the angles of technical, economic and commercial viability, including change of management. The report of the Committee has been given to ICICI by HFC. Any decision on the recommendations of the Committee would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings of the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Prices of Formulations based on Imported Bulk Drugs

3080. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3872 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has failed to bring down the price of any formulation based on imported bulk drug consequent to reduction in customs duty from 85% to 65% since March, 1994;

(b) what are the reasons for this lapse and who is responsible for such a state of affairs;

(c) whether it is a fact that number of antibiotics and cardiovascular drugs imported into the country is not more than 30 and that the Ministry has failed to furnish their names, imports and CIF prices during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that import prices have been jacked up; and

(e) whether enquiry into this naked scandal would be held and those in charge would be taken to task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The information will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Frequent rise in fertilizer rates

3081. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of increase in the rates of fertilizers;